

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazushige MORIHARA et al.

Title: FIXING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 12/23/2003

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of the foreign-language documents is described in the present specification.

Document A3 discloses technology to provide an induction heating fixing apparatus which has excellent response to rise in temperature, can reliably prevent the excessive rise in temperature of an induction coil and a hollow metal member, and does not incur damage to the hollow metal member. The induction heating fixing apparatus comprises a coil temperature detecting means 30 which is disposed inside a holder 24 and detects the temperature of an induction coil 22, and an energization interrupting means 31 which interrupts energization to the induction coil 22 when the coil temperature detected by the coil temperature detecting means 30 exceeds a predetermined set temperature. The coil temperature detecting means 30 and the energization interrupting means 31 are formed, as one unitary piece, of a temperature fuse 32 which is connected to winding 21 of the induction coil 22 as a temperature sensor and blows when its temperature exceeds a set temperature.

Document A4 discloses technology to provide an image forming apparatus with high reliability, by securely and reliably performing control of the temperature of a fixing device and protection in runaway of the fixing device, by at least two means. A member 50 is a fixing device, and the temperature of a fixing roller thereof is detected based on a potential divided by a thermistor 51 and a resistor 60. The detected voltage across the termistor 51 is compared with a reference voltage V_{ref49} present in an amplifier 52, and a difference between the voltages is amplified and outputted. In the case of runway of the fixing device 50, that is, if the temperature detected by the thermistor 51 exceeds a range of normal temperature, a power supply control IC 55 is controlled with a phototriac coupler 58 and power supply to the fixing apparatus 50 is cut off.

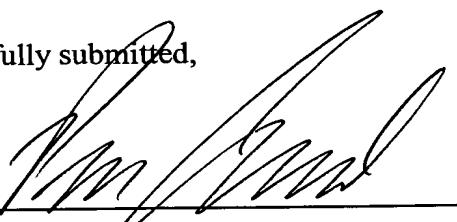
Document A5 discloses technology to prevent an abnormal rise in temperature of a toner-heating medium heated by electromagnetic induction of induction heating means. A fixing apparatus comprising a pressure roller which is in pressure contact with a fixing roller with a heat-resistant belt 3 interposed therebetween and rotates in a forward direction with respect to the heat-resistant belt 3 to form a fixing nip section, a switching element 16 which feeds a current through an excitation coil 7, a switching-element drive means 17 which drives the switching element 16, and a temperature-sensing operating member 12 which is connected in series to a power supply line of the switching-element drive means 17 and stops feeding to the switching-element drive means 17 when its temperatures exceeds a predetermined value.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Date December 23, 2003

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	Unassigned
Date Submitted: December 23, 2003 (use as many sheets as necessary)				Filing Date	12/23/2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazushige MORIHARA
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	016907-1591

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A1	6,615,003	B2	NAKAYAMA	09-02-2003		
A2	2003/0228178	A1	MORIHARA	12-11-2003		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office ³	Number ⁴			
A3	JP	9-197854	A	MINOLTA CO., LTD.	07-31-1997	
A4	JP	8-339134	A	CANON INC.	12-24-1996	
A5	JP	2002-236429	A	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD.	08-23-2002	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.